

Hebrews 10:19-39

Week Sixteen

Study written by Holli Worthington



Day 1



Thank you Lord that in the Bible you have given me words of life. Help me— I am prone to wander! Help me to cling to you and your word. Make my heart soft to soak in your life giving words and live out what you give me.

- ✓ Read through the passage in each translation.
- ✓ Underline or write in the margin, themes that you see.
- ✓ Write a question you have about the passage.
- ✓ In the space below, write out a verse from our passage that stands out to you, that you can meditate on throughout the week.

Day 2-Hebrews 10:19-25

Hebrews chapters 1-9 have been filled with truths about who Jesus is and the work God has accomplished through him on our behalf. These truths are called **indicatives**. **Indicatives** are declarations of what God has done; they tell us who we are in Jesus; they show us the riches that are ours as God's children. They are what we must know and believe. Indicatives are the good news of the gospel! Beginning halfway through chapter 10 the author lays out how we must live in light of these glorious truths. These exhortations or commands are called **Imperatives**; they show us how we should live in light of all God has done. Imperatives help us respond properly to the goodness and love of God. Imperatives urge us on to become like the One we love. I like to think of indicatives and imperatives in the Bible as **truth** and **transformation**.

1. Verses 19-21 summarize what the author has been teaching about the superiority of Jesus. List the two amazing blessings we have in verses 19-21 because of Jesus.

In light of these amazing privileges the author exhorts us to do three things:

2. Verse 22- Let us _____ .

-What four things need to be true in order to draw near to God according to verse 22?

3. Verse 23- Let us _____ .

-What do we hold fast to?

-What is the quality of our holding fast?

-What is the basis of our holding fast?

Scholar's Note: "The Greek word for "confession" (homologia) here means a public and doctrinal confession..."¹

For Discussion: Are there doctrinal truths you are tempted to waver on in public? If so, what are they? Why is this a temptation?

4. Verse 24- Let us _____ .

- What are we to spend time thinking about (considering) according to verse 24?

- What are some ways you have been stirred up by others to love and good works?

Scholar's Note: ... "stir up;" means to incite or provoke or stimulate."²

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses and answer the question:

-How do we ensure that our good works are not wood, hay and stubble (1 Cor. 3:11-12), or done out of legalism (trying to earn favor with God)?

Romans 14:23b "For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin."

1 Cor. 15:10 ¹⁰ But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace. (NLT)

1 Peter 4:11 ¹¹ Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! (NLT)

2 Thes. 1 :11-12 ¹¹ To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, ¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

For Discussion: Unfortunately the “stirring up” we do at church isn’t always for love and good works. When conversations are heading toward a bad “stirring up”, what are some ways we can redirect conversations?

Picture and Ponder: “The way we live and talk and act should be provocative to other Christians, in the best sense of the word.”³



Verse 25 lets us know that even 2000 years ago there were those who were in the habit of skipping church regularly. Apparently this is not a new problem! Yet meeting together is one of the primary ways God has designed for us to encourage each other and provoke one another to live for God and others. We learn in Hebrews that meeting together for worship and community is not an option for believers – it is essential for our perseverance and growth and with each day that passes it becomes more and more vital.

Reflect on the following thoughts:

- ❖ Each week as you meet with fellow believers, be intentional about looking for at least one person you can encourage. And then also be intentional about looking for at least one encouragement you can gain from the sermon, from a song or from prayer.⁴
- ❖ Far from being a legalistic way to earn points with God or fellow believers, church is a blessing that God has graciously provided for our thriving. Is there a shift in your thinking about church that needs to happen in light of these verses in Hebrews? Do you come to church as a consumer, analyzing what is to your liking and what isn't? Do you look for excuses to stay home from church? Do you go to church knowing you have a vital role to fulfill in encouraging others? Do you see meeting together as essential to your spiritual health?
- ❖ Spend some time right now considering and asking God how you can stir someone up to love and good works this week. What are some ideas?

Day 3-Hebrews 10:26-31

5. Verse 26 brings us to the 4th warning in the book of Hebrews. What is the author warning against?

Scholar's Note: In *knowledge of the truth*, "truth" (aletheia) stands for "the content of Christianity as the absolute truth" as it frequently does in the NT." ⁵

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses and answer the question:

-All of us as believers struggle with sin and many of us have besetting sins that plague our lives. How do these verses in Proverbs help us understand what Hebrews 10:26 means when it talks about those who sin deliberately?

Proverbs 2:13-14 "...who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil..."

6. According to verse 27, what awaits those who deliberately and knowingly reject Jesus?

7. What word in verse 27, describes people who reject Jesus?

For Discussion: What does the scope and magnitude of this frightening judgment tell us about sin and about God? What is your response to this?

8. Verse 29 makes it clear that the people who are being described are not believers who struggle with sin, but about apostates. How are they described in verse 29?

9. Verse 30 quotes Deuteronomy 32:35-36. How does this verse confirm that those who reject God will not go unpunished?



It is hard to think about the judgment of God on sinners who reject him. But how good would God be if he did not punish sin? We know instinctively that sin should be punished. We feel anger when we see wrongs committed against innocent victims and we call for justice. But God loved us so much that he poured out his anger against sin on his innocent Son so that we who trust in Jesus could be spared.

- ❖ We know many people who have “received the knowledge of truth”, yet have walked away from that Truth. Many of our loved ones and friends were raised in the church and brought up to understand the truth of the gospel, only later to reject or wander away from life with God. Spend some time praying that God would soften their hearts and pour out his mercy and grace on them.

Day 4-Hebrews 10:32-35

10. What does the author want his readers to remember according to verse 32?

-What are all the sufferings they faced (vs. 33-34)?

For Discussion: Why is it important to remember God's past faithfulness?



Father, thank you for the grace you have given me in past struggles. Help me to trust you for future grace.

- ii. What enabled these Jewish Christians to joyfully endure the suffering they experienced according to verse 34?

-How does faith play a part in this?

-How does valuing the things of God affect life on this earth?

For Discussion: What makes the difference between merely enduring suffering and enduring suffering joyfully?

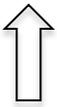
12. What, in the future, awaits those who persevere and do not throw away their faith according to verse 35?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses and answer the question:

-What all do these verses teach us about perseverance?

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 “So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”

Picture and Ponder: “When faith is in fullest operation, it pictures a future with a God who is so powerful and so loving and so wise and so satisfying that this future-picturing faith experiences assurance. Now.”⁶



Father, forgive me for loving the comforts of this world so much that I lose sight of the glory to come. Help me to treasure you and all that you promise me one day more than anything else this world has to offer here and now.

Day 5-Hebrews 10:36-39

13. What is it that these Jewish Christians needed according to verse 36?

Picture and Ponder: “Perseverance is the present tense of the Christian life, and it typically involves fierce struggle.”⁷

14. What will endurance bring according to verse 36?

-What has God promised that this verse is talking about?

15. How is the Christian life described in verse 38?

Scholar's Note: To “shrink back” in the Greek is a withdrawing, a timidity of one stealthily retreating.

16. What are the two options in this life according to verse 39?



The author of Hebrews is exhorting his readers (the Jewish Christians and us) to persevere in their faith. This has been a theme throughout Hebrews genuine believers persevere in faith to the end.

1 John 5:4 says, “And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.” Faith does not mean Christianity in general. The faith that perseveres and overcomes the world and gains salvation is the faith that moment by moment, day after day and year after year trusts God, believes his promises, and clings to him no matter what.

- ❖ When you are weary and feel like giving up or giving in what helps you to persevere in faith?

- ❖ How does meeting together and being encouraged by other believers (vs.23-25) help you persevere in your faith?

- ❖ How does valuing the things that God values help you persevere?

- ❖ Meditate on James 1:2-4 and write some of your thoughts.

² Count it all joy, my brothers when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God was stirring in your heart, convicting you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

¹ Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Location 4567). Kindle Edition.

² Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Location 4604). Kindle Edition.

³ Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Location 4604). Kindle Edition.

⁴ This suggestion is from an article entitled *Your Church Needs You This Sunday* by Sam Allberry January 5, 2020 <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/your-church-needs-you-this-sunday>

⁵ Expositor's Commentary Copyright © 1998-2018 Olive Tree Bible Software

⁶ Piper, John. Future Grace. Multnomah Books, Colorado Springs Co. 2015 Revised Edition. P.6

⁷ Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 4862-4863). Kindle Edition.

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